

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows. Per practice in reissue applications, amendments are shown relative to the originally-issued claims. Additions are underlined, and deletions are depicted in **[brackets]**. Further, the below listing of claims shows all of the amendments of the claims that have been made during prosecution. In this action, only Claims 18, 40 and 52 are amended relative to the Supplemental Amendment filed by Applicants on October 9, 2003.

1. (Previously Presented) An integrally formed roller skate chassis adapted for attachment of a plurality of skate wheels, said chassis comprising:

a heel attachment member and a forefoot attachment member for attaching said chassis to a skating boot; and

a pair of laterally spaced first and second longitudinal members, said longitudinal members having generally planar upper portions with upper edges integrally attached to said heel and forefoot attachment members and lower portions for accommodating attachment of a wheel set, one of said upper portions of the first longitudinal member being substantially coplanar with a respective lower portion, [the other] one of said upper portions of the second longitudinal member being inclined toward the coplanar one of said upper portions in an upwardly extending direction, said lower portions [in an upwardly extending direction] being substantially parallel to each other, and one or more connecting webs extending between said longitudinal members and integrally attached to said longitudinal members where said upper and lower portions intersect;

wherein said chassis has enhanced structural integrity for a given weight of material.

2. (Original) The chassis of Claim 1, wherein said lower portions have one or more horizontally elongated openings formed therein to reduce weight and excess material.

3. (Original) The chassis of Claim 1, wherein said lower portions have one or more ribs formed thereon.

4. (Original) The chassis of Claim 1, wherein said connecting webs have one or more chamfered edges adjacent to said skate wheels so as to accommodate closer spacing between said skate wheels.

5. (Previously Presented) An integrally formed roller skate [stake]chassis, adapted for attachment of a plurality of skate wheels, said chassis comprising:

a heel attachment member and a forefoot attachment member for attaching said chassis to a skating boot; and

a pair of laterally spaced longitudinal members having upper edges integrally attached to said heel and forefoot members, said longitudinal members having upper and lower generally planar portions separated by one or more web members extending between said longitudinal members and attached thereto, said upper portions forming substantially convergent planes in an upwardly extending direction above said one or more web members[member], said lower portions forming substantially parallel planes below said one or more web members, such that said chassis forms substantially an A-frame when viewed in cross section;

wherein said chassis has enhanced structural integrity and more efficient transfer of power from a skater to said skate wheels during use.

6. (Original) The chassis of Claim 5, wherein said one or more web members are spaced to form a plurality of openings for accommodating said wheels.

7. (Original) The chassis of Claim 5, wherein said chassis has an extruded unibody construction.

8. (Original) The chassis of Claim 7, wherein said chassis is formed from an extruded aluminum billet which is machined to the desired shape.

9. (Original) The chassis of Claim 5, wherein said chassis has flush-mounted, rockerable axle holes.

10. (Original) The chassis of Claim 5, wherein said lower portions have at least one horizontally elongated opening formed therein to reduce weight and excess material.

11. (Original) The chassis of Claim 5, wherein said lower portions have at least one rib formed thereon.

12. (Original) The chassis of Claim 5, wherein said web members have at least one chamfered edge adjacent to said skate wheels so as to accommodate closer spacing between said skate wheels.

13. (Previously Presented) A roller skate chassis assembly for attachment to a skate boot, the chassis assembly comprising:

a forefoot section and a heel section;

a pair of laterally spaced longitudinal support members spanning the forefoot and heel sections of the chassis, each support member having a substantially planar lower portion, the lower portions being parallel to each other and adapted to receive a plurality of skate wheels therebetween;

one or more web members extending between and attached to the lower portions of the support members, the web member positioned so as to be between successive wheels;

an upper portion in the forefoot section of each support member, the upper portion extending upwardly from the lower portion and having an upper edge, and a mounting flange extends from each upper edge, the mounting flange having at least one mount hole;
and

an upper portion in the heel section of each support member, the upper portion extending upwardly from the lower portion and having an upper edge, and a mounting flange extends from each upper edge, the mounting flange having at least one mount hole;

wherein in at least one of the heel and forefoot sections, the upper portions lie in substantially convergent planes in an upwardly extending direction above said one or more web members.

14. Cancelled

15. Cancelled

16. (Previously Presented) The chassis of Claim 13, wherein the chassis has an extruded unibody construction.

17. (Previously Presented) The chassis of Claim 13, wherein the support members are formed separately from one another.

18. (Currently Amended) The chassis of Claim 13, wherein each mounting flange extends from its respective upper edge in a direction away from the upper portions.

19. (Previously Presented) The chassis of Claim 13, wherein the upper portions in the heel section of the chassis lie in substantially convergent planes in an upwardly extending direction.

20. (Previously Presented) The chassis of Claim 13, wherein the upper portions in the forefoot section of the chassis lie in substantially convergent planes in an upwardly extending direction.

21. (Previously Presented) The chassis assembly of Claim 17, wherein the support members and one or more web member are integrally attached to one another.

22. (Previously Presented) A roller skate chassis assembly for attachment of a plurality of skate wheels, said chassis assembly comprising:

an elongate left chassis member and an elongate right chassis member, each chassis member having a front region, a back region, and a substantially planar lower portion extending through the front and back regions, the left and right chassis members being spaced apart from each other and arranged so that the left and right lower portions lie in substantially parallel planes, the lower portions being adapted so that a plurality of skate wheels are supported therebetween;

one or more web members extending between the left and right chassis members and adapted so that the chassis members and one or more web members are integrally attached to one another;

each chassis member having a substantially planar upper portion in the front region and a substantially planar upper portion in the back region, the upper portions being positioned substantially above the one or more web members;

a forefoot mount defined above the front upper portions in the front regions of the left and right chassis members, the forefoot mount being adapted to accomodate attachment of a forefoot portion of a skate boot sole; and

a heel mount defined above the back upper portions in the back regions of the left and right chassis members, the heel mount being adapted to accomodate attachment of a heel portion of a skate boot sole;

wherein at least one of the upper portions of each of the chassis members lies in a plane that is inclined relative to the adjacent planar lower portion and is convergent in an upward direction with the corresponding planar upper portion of the spaced apart chassis member.

23. (Previously Presented) The chassis assembly of Claim 22, wherein the upper portions in the back regions of each of the left and right chassis members lie in planes that are inclined relative to their corresponding lower portions, such that said chassis assembly forms substantially an A-frame when viewed in cross section at the back regions of the chassis members.

24. (Previously Presented) The chassis assembly of Claim 22, wherein the upper portions in the front regions of each of the left and right chassis members lie in planes that are inclined relative to their corresponding lower portions, such that said chassis assembly forms substantially an A-frame when viewed in cross section at the front regions of the chassis members.

25. (Previously Presented) The chassis assembly of Claim 22, wherein the chassis assembly has unitary, extruded construction.

26. (Previously Presented) The chassis assembly of Claim 22, wherein the left chassis member, right chassis member and one or more web member are formed separately from one another.

27. (Previously Presented) The chassis assembly of Claim 26, wherein the chassis members are welded to the one or more web member.

28. (Previously Presented) The chassis assembly of Claim 22, wherein at least one of the upper portions of each of the chassis members lies in a plane that is inclined between about 60° - 88° relative to the plane of the lower portion.

29. (Previously Presented) A method of making a roller skate chassis, comprising: forming an elongate left chassis member and an elongate right chassis member, each chassis member having a front region, a back region, a substantially planar lower portion extending through the front and back regions, a substantially planar upper portion in the front region, and a substantially planar upper portion in the back region, at least one of the upper portions of each chassis member being angled relative to the respective

lower portion, a forefoot mount portion defined above the front upper portions of the left and right chassis members, each forefoot mount being adapted to accomodate attachment of a forefoot portion of a skate boot sole, and a heel mount portion defined above the back upper portions of the left and right chassis members, each heel mount being adapted to accomodate attachment of a heel portion of a skate boot sole;

forming at least one cross member; and

arranging the at least one cross member between the left and right chassis members so that the at least one cross member extends between the left and right chassis members, the chassis members are spaced apart from one another, the upper portions of the chassis members are positioned substantially above the at least one cross member, and at least one of the upper portions of each of the chassis members lies in a plane that is inclined relative to the adjacent planar lower portion and is convergent in an upward direction with the corresponding planar upper portion of the spaced apart chassis member.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein the left chassis member, right chassis member and cross member are formed separately.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 30, wherein the left and right chassis members are welded to the cross member.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein forming comprises extruding a billet of material and machining the extruded billet.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the chassis has a unibody construction.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein the upper portions in the back regions of each of the left and right chassis members lie in planes that are inclined relative to their corresponding lower portions, such that said chassis forms substantially an A-frame when viewed in cross section at the back regions of the chassis members.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein the upper portions in the front regions of each of the left and right chassis members lie in planes that are inclined relative to their corresponding lower portions, such that said chassis forms substantially an A-frame when viewed in cross section at the front regions of the chassis members.

36. (Previously Presented) A roller skate chassis assembly for attachment to a skate boot, the chassis assembly comprising:

a forefoot section and a heel section;

a pair of laterally spaced support members spanning the forefoot and heel sections of the chassis, each support member having a substantially planar lower portion, the lower portions being parallel to each other and adapted to receive a plurality of skate wheels therebetween;

at least one web member extending between and attached to the support members, the at least one web member positioned so as to be between successive wheels;

an upper portion in the forefoot section of each support member, the upper portion extending upwardly from the lower portion and having an upper edge, and a mounting flange extending from each upper edge, the mounting flange having at least one mount hole; and

an upper portion in the heel section of each support member, the upper portion extending upwardly from the lower portion and having an upper edge, and a mounting flange extending from each upper edge, the mounting flange having at least one mount hole;

wherein in at least one of the heel and forefoot sections, the upper portions are spaced such that a distance between the upper portions is less than a distance between the planar lower portions

37. (Previously Presented) The assembly of Claim 36, wherein in at least one of the heel and forefoot sections, the upper portions are generally inwardly inclined above said one or more web members.

38. (Previously Presented) The assembly of Claim 36, wherein in at least one of the heel and forefoot sections, a distance between the upper portions at their respective upper edges is less than a distance between the support members at or adjacent the at least one web member.

39. (Previously Presented) The assembly of Claim 36, wherein a line extending between the upper edge of a support member and the intersection of the support member and a web member is angled between about 60-88 degrees relative to horizontal.

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40. (Currently Amended) The assembly of Claim 36, wherein at least one of the upper portions is curved.

41. (Previously Presented) The assembly of Claim 36, wherein the upper portions are substantially planar.

42. (Previously Presented) The assembly of Claim 36, wherein the support members are formed separately from one another.

43. (Previously Presented) The assembly of Claim 42, wherein the support members and one or more web members are integrally attached to one another.

44. (Previously Presented) The assembly of Claim 36, wherein the chassis has an extruded unibody construction.

45. (Previously Presented) The assembly of Claim 36, wherein in at least one of the heel and forefoot sections, the support members and at least one web member generally form an "A" shape when viewed in cross section.

46. (Previously Presented) A method of making a roller skate chassis, comprising:
forming an elongate left chassis member and an elongate right chassis member,
each chassis member having a front region, a back region, a substantially planar lower
portion extending through the front and back regions, an upper portion in the front region,
and an upper portion in the back region, at least a portion of at least one of the upper
portions being inclined relative to the corresponding lower portion, an upper edge of each
front upper portion attached to a front mount portion, the front mount portion being
adapted to accommodate attachment of a forefoot portion of a skate boot sole, an upper
edge of each back upper portion attached to a back mount portion, the back mount portion
being adapted to accommodate attachment of a heel portion of a skate boot sole;

forming at least one cross member; and

arranging the at least one cross member between the left and right chassis
members so that the at least one cross member extends between the left and right chassis
members and has a length, and the upper edges of the front and back upper portions are
disposed vertically higher than the at least one cross member, and a distance between the
upper edges in at least one of the front and back upper portions is less than the length of
the cross member.

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47. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 46 additionally comprising forming at least one mount hole in each of the front and back mount portions.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein the left chassis member, right chassis member and cross member are formed separately.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 48, wherein the left and right chassis members are welded to the cross member.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein forming comprises extruding a billet of material and machining the extruded billet.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 50, wherein the chassis has a unibody construction.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 46, wherein at least one of the upper portions is curved.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 46, wherein the upper portions are substantially planar.

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SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Fischmann for the courteous telephone interview with Applicants' counsel, Glen Nuttall, on January 26, 2004. Issues discussed in the interview were in the context of the Office Action mailed by the Patent Office on January 12, 2004. A summary of the substance of the interview follows.

In connection with paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner and Applicant's counsel discussed the term "rockerable." As discussed, the term "rocker" is well known in the art of ice and roller skating, and one of ordinary skill in the art will know what it means. For example, for ice skates, a "rocker" refers to a curved ice skate blade. For roller skates, the term "rocker" refers to a similar effect of a wheeled skate chassis. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that the term "rockerable" was acceptable in its use in the specification, and agreed to remove his objection to this term. The Examiner has also objected to Claim 9 because of the use of the term "rockerable." In accordance with the discussion of this term during the interview, Applicants believe that the Examiner's objection to Claim 9 is similarly resolved.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). More specifically, the Examiner stated that limitations recited in Claim 5 were not shown in the drawings. However, during the interview, the Examiner agreed that Figures 2 and 3 in fact show "upper portions forming substantially convergent planes in an upwardly extending direction above said one or more web members." Thus, the Examiner agreed that this objection has been resolved.

In connection with paragraph 6(b) of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claim 18, which is dependent upon Claim 13. In order to provide proper antecedent basis to address the Examiner's concern, the Applicants agreed to amend Claim 13 in the manner presented in the claim amendments listed above. The Examiner agreed that the amendment would overcome the objection.

In connection with paragraph 6(c) of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claims 40 and 52 because the specification does not require that both of the upper portions are curved. Accordingly, Applicants proposed amending Claims 40 and 52 in the manner set out above. The Examiner agreed that this amendment would overcome his objection.